

Minutes



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting Tuesday,
January 5, 2021; 8:30 a.m.



PRESENT: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Penny Delaney Cothran John Epting, Gretchen Lambert, Zach Laprise, Bob Petrulis, Jane Przbysz, Tamaria Warren, Marty White, Taylor Wright, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

Guests: Rachel Bailey, Zoning Administrator; Ben Kessler, Landon Masters and Stacy Washington, ORS/State Energy Office.

Dr. Z. called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM. She introduced four guests joining the call.

Gretchen Lambert made a motion that the minutes from the December meeting, emailed with the agenda, be approved. Penny Delaney Cothran seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Zoning Administrator Rachel Bailey to discuss the [updated zoning plan](#). She made the following points:

- State law requires Comp Plan updates every 10 years. Because the previous Zoning Ordinance was from the late 1970s, a total re-write was done in conjunction with the Comp Plan update.
- The August 2018-August 2019 rewrite was designed to bring Columbia into modern times. The previous plan focused on suburban growth; the new plan focuses more on urban growth.
- New plan seeks to improve the City's eco footprint, establish open space requirements, establish required green standards with incentives for going above and beyond, and support infill development.

- New plan also establishes incentives for implementing green standards above and beyond those required. Incentives include increased density, reduced parking, increased height and reduction of landscape requirements.
- Remodels and non-residential buildings of less than 5000 sq. feet are exempt from the green standards.
- There are transitional zones on the map to help address wetlands and flooding issues. They also address via open space requirements and parking reductions.
- When asked to give the vision of the framework in a few words, Rachel added the following: transition from suburban to urban; fills in the gaps, will help make the city more pedestrian-friendly.
- In closing, Rachel invited members to reach out if they have further questions once they review the new document. Her email is Rachel.bailey@columbiasc.gov.

Dr. Z. then moved to a 2020-2021 update and asked members if the group had made progress. Everyone agreed that even in a year “hijacked” by COVID, it had been a year of positive growth and change. Cited items included organizational updates, framework examination, better direction, clearly defined mission and good leadership. When asked where CPAC should go from here, responses included:

- Creation of a clearer, tighter vision
- Prioritization of actions
- Development of Ready for 100 master plan
- Breaking down of silos
- Increased public engagement

Gretchen then gave an update on the by-laws, which will be referred to the Environment and Infrastructure Committee at today’s city council meeting. She made a motion that the annual election of officers be moved from the first regular CPAC meeting of the year to the first meeting following the approval of the by-laws. Bob seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In a Public Works update, Robert announced that the Dominion LED project is being referred to the E&I Committee for consideration. Their presentation will be the same day as the bylaws discussion and CPAC update and will be scheduled soon.

In a related matter, Mary Pat reminded the group that members work through her or Robert to engage other City employees, especially clerk of council. The goal is not to stifle engagement, but to be sure all players are in the loop and there are “no surprises.” Robert also informed the group of a City Council request to run an additional (third) recycling route the last week in December. He explained the pros and cons, and said they are working with Council on it now.

Interim Solid Waste Director Samantha Yager announced that recycling markets remain largely unchanged.

Gretchen asked Sam to let her know of any Spring recycling-related days or events. She’ll be working with the Richland Library to get a list of books curated, and now that water and Arbor Day have been done, it might be good to do recycling.

In new business, Dr. Z. said that she as having some discussions regarding the renewables section of the integrated resource plan Dominion submitted to the Public Service Commission because it doesn’t provide for municipal or university care outs. Mary Pat asked to be included in and/or advised of any calls under the “no surprises” clause.

Having no further new or old business, Dr. Z. announced that the next working meeting will be on Tuesday, January 19 at 8:30 a.m. Ready for 100 consultant Dr. Anthony Artuso will be on the call and engage the group on his work.

Around 9:40 a.m., Penny moved that the meeting be adjourned; Gretchen seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.